



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/666,253	09/22/2003	Hidejiro Machara	242936US2	9515
22850	7590	06/27/2006	EXAMINER	
OBLON, SPIVAK, MCCLELLAND, MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C. 1940 DUKE STREET ALEXANDRIA, VA 22314			FRANKLIN, RICHARD B	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2181	

DATE MAILED: 06/27/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/666,253	Applicant(s) MAEHARA, HIDEJIROU	
	Examiner Richard Franklin	Art Unit 2181	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 09 May 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-24, 27 and 28 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10, 13-24, 27 and 28 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

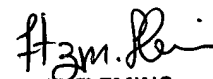
Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.


FRITZ FLEMING
 PRIMARY EXAMINER
 GROUP 2100
 Au 2181
 6/13/2006

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. Claims 1 – 10, 13 – 24, and 27 – 28 have been examined.

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

2. A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 17 April 2006 has been entered.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 1 – 10, 13 – 24, and 27 – 28 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Claim Objections

4. Claim 10 is objected to under 37 CFR 1.75(c), as being of improper dependent form for failing to further limit the subject matter of a previous claim. Applicant is required to cancel the claim(s), or amend the claim(s) to place the claim(s) in proper dependent form, or rewrite the claim(s) in independent form. Claim 10 does not add any limitations that are not already present in claim 1.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

5. Claims 1 – 10, 13 – 24, and 27 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
6. Claims 1, 13, 14, 27, and 28 recite the limitation "the subject of the e-mail" in the last limitation of each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

The Examiner has interpreted the limitation to recite "a subject field of the email."

7. Claim 10 recites the limitation "a problem ID code" in the second line of the claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim. It is not clear if the limitation is referring to the problem ID code of claim 1 or a new problem ID code.

The Examiner has interpreted the limitation as referring to the problem ID code of claim 1.

8. Claims 15, 27, and 28 recite the limitation "the problem ID code" in the last limitation of each claim. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

9. Claims 1 – 10, 13 – 24, and 27 – 28 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over US Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0116480 (hereinafter Muto) in view of US Patent No 6,088,125 (hereinafter Okada) further in view of US Patent No. 6,666,594 (hereinafter Parry) and further in view of US Patent Application Publication No. 2003/0120775 (hereinafter York).

As per claims 1, 13 – 15, and 27 – 28, Muto teaches an image reproducing apparatus (Muto; Figure 1 Item 101) comprising an image forming part that carries out image forming and reproducing (Muto; Figure 1 Item 105, Paragraph [0040]); a data storage (Muto; Figure 1 Items 111 and 112) that stores a plurality of possible problems occurring in connection with an image forming and reproducing process, each problem being stored in association with a problem ID code (Muto; Figure 6, Paragraphs [0045], [0055], and [0056]); an acquiring unit (Muto; Figure 1 Item 106) that acquires problem information when one of the problem occurs in connection with the image forming and reproducing process (Muto; Paragraph [0040]); a communication unit that reports occurrence of one of the problems to the selected address (Muto; Figure 1 Item 113, Paragraph [0045]); and an email creating means (Muto; Figure 1 Item 108 and 112) that creates an email to report the occurrence of one of the problems to the selected

addressee and inserts the problem ID code in the subject of the email (Muto; Figure 10 Item 1004, Paragraph [0067]).

Muto does not teach wherein the data storage stores each problem in association with addressee information, an addressee determination unit that selects an addressee corresponding to one of the problems, a web page creating means that creates a web page containing detailed information about the problem detected in an image reporting and reproducing process, and inserting a URL of the web page in the subject of the email.

However, Okada teaches storing each problem in association with addressee information (Okada; Figure 19); and selecting an addressee corresponding to one of the problems (Okada; Figure 22 Items St137 – St144, Col 16 Lines 28 – 50).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teachings of Muto to include the addressee information because doing so allows for error results to be conveyed to people other than a requesting node (Okada; Col 16 Lines 51 – 56).

Muto in combination with Okada does not teach a web page creating means that creates a web page containing detailed information about the problem detected in an image reporting and reproducing process, and inserting a URL of the web page in the subject of the email.

However, Parry teaches a web page creating means that creates a Web page containing detailed information about the problems detected in the image forming and reproducing process (Parry; Figure 1 Item 12, Col 8 Lines 9 – 25, Claim 22).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teachings of Muto in combination with Okada to include the web server because doing so allows additional information to be displayed to the user as well as the whole history of printer errors (Parry; Col 8 Lines 9 – 25).

Muto in combination with Okada and Parry does not teach inserting a URL of the web page in the subject of the email.

However, York teaches inserting a URL of a web page in the body of an email notification (York; Paragraph [0032]). York also teaches that rearrangement of the embodiment, such as placing the URL in the subject field of the email and not the body field, is within the scope of the disclosure and would be obvious (York; Paragraph [0035]).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified the teachings of Muto to include the URL in the subject because doing so allows the user to access web-based management tools for the device (York; Paragraph [0033]).

As per claims 2 and 16, Muto also teaches wherein the forming and reproducing process includes at least one of a printing process for recording and outputting an image and a reading process for optically reading an original, and the image forming part includes at least one of a printing section that records and outputs the image, and a reading section that optically reads the original (Muto; Paragraph [0137]).

As per claims 3 and 17, Parry also teaches an error detection unit that detects errors in the printing and reading process (Parry; Figure 1 Item 23, Col 5 Lines 1 – 7).

As per claims 4 and 18, Muto also teaches the image apparatus further comprising a use information retaining unit that retains use information about the image reproducing apparatus, wherein the communication unit reports the occurrence of a problem together with the use information to the selected address (Muto; Figure 10 Item 1010, Paragraph [0069]).

As per claims 5 and 19, Muto also teaches wherein the use information contains location information representing the location of the image reproducing apparatus (Muto; Figure 10 Item 1011, Paragraph [0069]).

As per claims 6 and 20, Muto also teaches wherein the use information contains ID information for identifying the image reproducing apparatus (Muto; Figure 10 Item 1010, Paragraph [0069]).

As per claims 7 and 21, Okada also teaches wherein the data storage stores one or more addressees as addressee information, in association with one of the problems (Okada; Figure 23, Col 16 Lines 5 – 9).

As per claims 8 and 22, Okada also teaches wherein the data storage stores a user of the image reproducing apparatus in association with one of the problems (Okada; Col 16 Lines 51 – 56).

As per claims 9 and 23, Okada also teaches wherein the data storage stores an email address as the addressee information, in association with one of the problems (Okada; Figure 23, Col 16 Lines 5 – 9).

As per claims 10 and 24, Muto also teaches wherein the data storage stores a problem ID code in association with one of the problems (Figure 1 Items 111 and 112, Paragraphs [0045] and [0055] – [0056]), and the email creating means inserts the problem ID code in the subject of the email (Figure 1 Items 108 and 112, Figure 10 Item 1004, Paragraph [0067]).

Conclusion

10. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

- US Patent No 6,993,559 (hereinafter Jiik) – Teaches placing a web address or URL in the subject field of an e-mail message.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Richard Franklin whose telephone number is (571) 272-0669. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Fritz Fleming can be reached on (571) 272-4145. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

Richard Franklin
Patent Examiner
Art Unit 2181

Fritz Fleming
Supervisor | FRITZ FLEMING
PRIMARY EXAMINER
GROUP 2100
AULB1 6/13/2006